

GAY LIBERATION

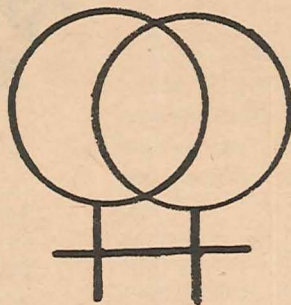
"Gay is good. Gay is proud. If I had been given a choice (but who is?), I would prefer to have been straight. But then would I rather not have been me?...I think not...It is a very clear day in December, and the sun is shining on the pine trees...On such a day I would not choose to be anyone else..." Merle Miller, writing in *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 17, 1971.

Early in the sixth century A.D., the Byzantine Emperor Justinian surveyed his empire and saw that all was not as it should be. Earthquakes, plagues, and famine abounded. Justinian, being a shrewd interpreter of the Divine Will, discerned in these calamities a sign that God was displeased with the Empire. The ever-wise ruler determined that this displeasure had its source in a recent upsurge in homosexual activity among the populace. Justinian, longing for a return to normalcy, was understandably eager that this source of Divine displeasure be removed as speedily and efficiently as possible. Thus began a witch-hunt in which mere suspicion of homosexuality was punishable by death. Although these vigorous new legal sanctions had no visible effect upon the occurrence of natural calamities, (the Justinian Code has served as a bulwark of Western Society for 1300 years,) and is indicative of the progressive enlightened attitude that the Christian Church and its partner, civil government, have shown in dealing with homosexuality through the centuries.

Medieval catechisms decried homosexuality as, "that abominable sin not fit to be mentioned among Christians." For centuries it was not. Church and state worked together quietly but diligently to ferret out and punish those who dared commit the ultimate heresy of deviation from the sexual status quo. From time to time, persons coming into the displeasure of the power-structure were punished, and their credibility destroyed, by accusations that they were guilty of, "crimes against nature." The veracity of the charges, much less the assumptions upon which they were based, never really mattered. The result was the same.

The situation has been particularly acute in America--land of liberty. Through the years, other oppressed groups (blacks, Jews, Irishmen, women...) have painstakingly developed among themselves a sense of class-consciousness and have won at least some degree of liberation. But not so for gay people. In an era in which an entertainer could be forced off the air by jokes about, "kikes," "niggers," or "wops," Bob Hope, Johnny Carson, and celebrities of similar stature know that a veiled reference to gay people can always be depended upon to produce a ripple of (somewhat nervous, to be sure) laughter in any audience of red-blooded Americans. A recent Harris poll showed that 67% of the American public feels that homosexuals are "harmful" to society. Early in the great witch-hunt of the 1950's, Senator McCarthy discovered that attacking homosexuals was almost as rewarding as attacking communists. Indeed these two anti-American heresies are linked firmly together in the mass-mind, perhaps because they share a common root. All witch-hunting is based in a psychotic insecurity which seeks to defend itself from the Evil, which is seen as perpetually seeking to subvert and destroy the fragile but sacred fabric of the American Dream. Again and again we are confronted with that unfortunate, but convenient habit which automatically equates "different" with "evil," "satanic," or "treasonous" depending upon the frame of reference.

And then (God help us) we have Dr. Reuben and his witty little sex-book, proclaiming the good news that the old myths and stereotypes are still valid -- our security-blanket is intact. Only the phraseology has been altered; what one does in bed is still a valid barometer of his worth as a human being.



Student thoughts on gay liberation:

"I don't!"

"I don't care, as long as they don't bother me."

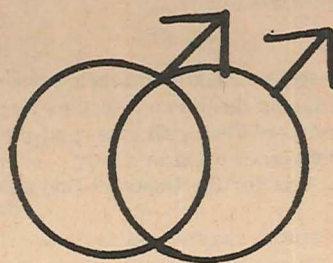
"It certainly cannot add to the population problem."

"...don, we now our gay apparel..."

"It's a commie plot... why not, everything else is commie plot?"

Well, in my opinion... don't knock it if you haven't tried it."

"Hmmm..."



The sad litany goes on. Justinian lives. During the Chicago Conspiracy Trial, the prosecutor observed that America is in the midst of a "freaking fag revolution." The hard-hat mentality (if such a thing can be said to exist), nurtured by libertarians of such stature as Vice-President Spiro Agnew (if such a thing can be said to exist), constantly strives to point up a connection between the Revolution and the "fag element" in our society. Those who cannot or will not conform to the national image or virility are labeled as "effete" and cast off as the dregs of society. One can only wonder...could it be that yet another aspect of the viciously negative attitude which American society traditionally displays in respect to homosexuality, is nothing more than a reflection of the morbid dread of variety in human existence which seems to be so vital a part of the American experience? Through invocation of God, democracy, and the flag, we have sought to reduce the lives of millions to that dull, dreary sameness which can be functional only in a society which regards human life as nothing more than an exploitable commodity. Sexual orthodoxy is but one realm. But it is a realm of especial significance, owing to the unique position of sexual expression in human interaction.

For many decades, the social juggernaut ground ruthlessly on. No one dared or knew how to proclaim the existential "no." And then it happened. One day, almost as if literally "out of the closets," there appeared on the horizon the specter of thousands and thousands of gay people with a newly-developed identity -- a sense that for them, "gay is good," and that anything else would be unnatural; a perversion. No longer content to act as the scape-goats of a sexually repressed society, America's newly militant gay minority as demanding an end to the persecution.

Our gay brothers and sisters have taken the first step. They have courageously moved out of the closets and into the streets; out of darkness and into light; out of despair and into hope. If history is any guide, our response to their demands will be nothing more than a perpetration of the same old defensive charade. One can only hope that, somehow, we have reached a point where we can begin to deal honestly with ourselves and one another; a point beyond which we will no longer need to construct and persecute symbolic hobgoblins in a pathetic effort to publically purge that which lurks within us all.

- Mark Stickle

WANTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST NATURE

Tennyson
T. E. Lawrence
A. E. Housman
Alcibiades
Leonardo Da Vinci
Wagner
Walt Whitman
Baudelaire
Goethe
Hans Christian Andersen
Alexander the Great
Charles XII of Sweden
Frederick the
Great of Prussia

Oscar Wilde
Tchaikovsky
W. H. Auden
David
Julius Caesar
Plato
Socrates
Shakespeare
Christopher Marlowe
Edward II
James I
Andre Gide
Somerset Maugham
Michelangelo

ART BUCHWALD

looks at a college riot . . .

Dean of students arrives on campus. Students start throwing rocks, dirt, and tomatoes at him and try to hit him over the head as they scream, "Amnesty! Amnesty!"

Dean of students, as he tries to protect himself, yells back, "What do you want amnesty from?"

Students: "From attacking you. We demand that you sign a paper that we won't be punished for throwing things at you and trying to hit you over the head."

Dean: "But why should I do that? Wouldn't it be better if you didn't attack me?"

Students: "If you don't agree to sign a paper giving us amnesty, we'll close down the school."

Dean: "I don't have the authority to give you amnesty. But I won't press any charges against you if you'll only stop hitting me with those table legs."

Students: "You're patronizing us. Aren't we even grown up enough to have charges pressed against us?"

Dean: "All right. I'll press charges against you then, if that's what you want."

Students: "We knew you would, you South Vietnamese puppet."

(from *The Establishment is Alive and Well in Washington* by Art Buchwald)

Et Tu?

Dear Senate,

Maybe all governments have press problems. Art Buchwald claims this was in a note from LBJ to Nixon.

When we first moved in, we found hordes of newspaper men coming out of the walls of the West Wing of the White House. We called the exterminators, and they did everything--they sprayed them, laid out poison bait for them, set mouse traps, and even plugged up all the leaks and holes. But the newspaper men just keep multiplying.

In the last year Lady Bird and I decided to ignore them, and I'd advise you to do the same. Trying to get rid of them seems to do more damage to the house than letting them gnaw on the foundations of your administration.

THE

DOWNFALL

OF THE GODS

(A MODERN EPIC)

Sing, O Muse, of the downfall of great Odin the Dumb of Brain,
Grandson of massive Ymir who was slain by his grandchild,
Even Odin the Dumb of Head as well as Brain,
Who slew his mighty grandpappy -- oops - grandsire
And e'en took this goodgiant's skull to form the mighty
Sphere of the sky and his blood formed the bloody seas.
Then did the wrath of the Forces of Decency descend upon the head
Of the gore-smeared god.

Odin, grandchild of Ymir, He whose eye flashes like a 15-watt bulb,
Sat beside the bloody sea and Wept unto the Forces of Decency,
Saying, "O woe to me, I the Dumb of Brain, who shed blood
And brought upon my innocently guilty head (dumb) the anger
And the blood-seeking arrows of the Forces of Decency,
To which I may never belong." Then did a Vampish and
Vixenish Valkyrie descend from a cloud,
Riding the Steed of a Shield Maiden.
This fiery steed did breath fire and smoke and Chanel No. 5;
And the golden saddle of this steed didst fold out into a
Valkyrie-size bed. Even so. Then did Odin, the Dumb of Brain
And the Willing of Elsewhere, clasp the Maiden in warm embrace.

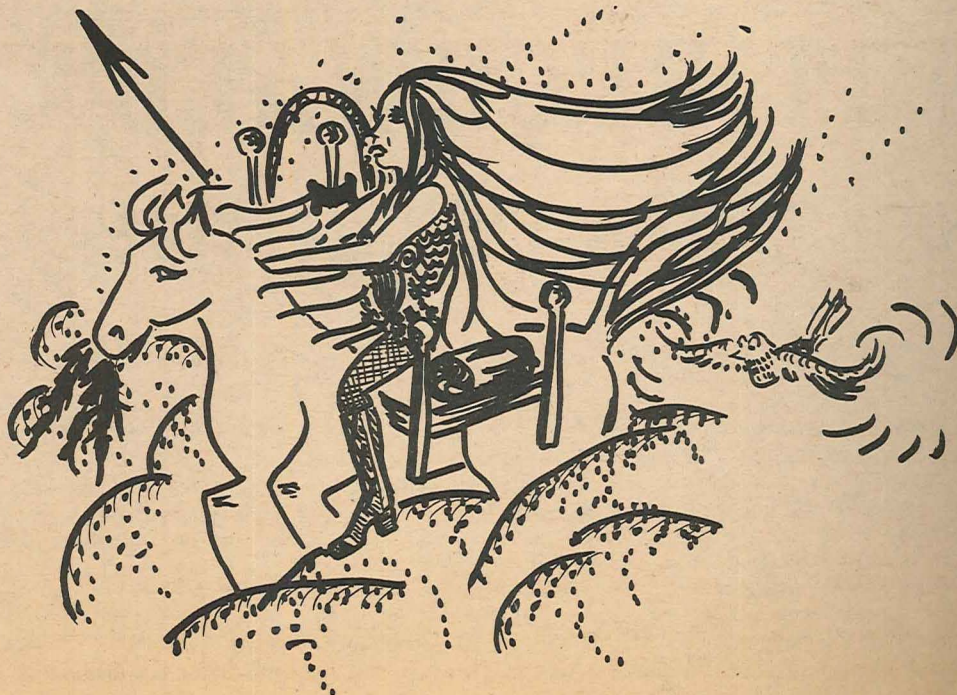
"RAPE," shrieked the winsome, buxom Maiden.
Then did Odin turn pale, Aye, even he
The Dumb of Brain, turned as pale as the new Moon.
Or as white as one of those odd little white worms
Found under rotting logs.

And there came from the Westerly East a Wizard,
Radagast the All-Seeing, All-Babbling, brandishing a PENTANGLE of fire,
And crying, "Thou shalt not vex, Thou shalt not hex."
Then the Maiden, knowing him to be Ratty the All-Seeing,
Did seize his magic, rune-inscribed Seeing Glasses,
Whereupon he became only Radagast the All-Blabbing.
And thence and forever did he blab:
"PLEASE, PLEASE!"

The Maiden, even the Chased or Chaste, did then seize the
Holy Girdle of Odin; then taking these two awesome items,
Even the Magic, Rune-Inscribed Seeing Glasses and the
Elastic Girdle of Odin, she placed them in safety
Between two other Items. Alas for the Impotent God and Wizard.

Thus did they fall into disgrace, shame, and sorrow.
And Odin, lacking the magic girdle, didst fall into deeper disgrace
For his holy britches didst fall also. Even so.
And though the words of Ratty are yet, "Please, please,"
The Generous and Giving Valkyrie realized he spoke to a different purpose,
And no longer desired the return of his Magic, Run-Inscribed Seeing Glasses.
Nay, he merely desired.

But she had already Given at the office party.



THE CURRENT SOLUTION

The whole history of human development has engaged man in an endless struggle for control. The rise and fall of civilizations directly reflect their capacity to master things and people. From antiquity to the present the only means of control of people has been by force or threat of force, and persuasion (seduction?) by inspiration and education. For the most part the application of these techniques has been gross, clumsy, or unsure in their effects.

"Few people have thought much on the long-range prospects . . ."

Today we have expanded the choice of methods through advanced studies in psychology, chemicals and drugs, surgical hardware and technique, electronics, computer technology, and data-processing systems. Few people have thought much on the long-range prospects for such technologies.

Obviously, these developments bear beneficial potential and could plausibly bring about the elimination of crime, insanity . . . even war. But the same arts have a potential for other, less desirable works. The enormous risks involved make it imperative for intelligent people to plan with care and consideration how to wield this infant power, for it has already been born, and certainly will mature.

Until lately the technical means for control have been only of the grossest fashion, and educational techniques limited to a fairly crude caliber. In addition, the majority of people in positions of power throughout history have not needed refined methods of control. Populations lived under tyrannical conditions in which

"Political control . . . has always been sustained by force."

people were easily expendable and easily replaced. Where life is cheap, leaders need not bother with behavioral subtleties. Political control, which seems to traditionally carry the greatest interest, has always been sustained by force. Even law, one of the most important means of

rational control, by necessity has based its impetus on a foundation of this same inescapable brand of violence.

Despite their seeming practicality, traditional controls generally have left a legacy of distaste and long-standing oversophistication in the use of force on individuals. Refined, these methods of coercion have become more subtle and dependable, but due to various sources of delay, have not totally escaped the realm of recognition and identification.

Today's individual is assaulted by a constant barrage from all sides. In the case of the student these sources include government, employer, school, parents, and peers. The weaponry include all manner of controlling stratagem from the direct and brutal variety down the continuum to the subtle: control by information (select information and misinformation), control by structure, organization, and mechanics, back to control by fear, assault, coercion, and punishment.

"In our case, the students seem to have . . . chosen against making a choice."

Engulfed in a world which proclaims more and more, like W.C. Fields, "Never give a sucker an even break." "The developing individual learns that to trust is suicidal, and that psychotic suspicion is sanity. In a position of constant betrayal (or threat of betrayal) there can only be a belligerent questioning of the validity of society and self. He battles for mastery of himself in a medium of life saturated with attempts to manipulate and control everything, including him. He is pushed and pulled, from all sides, for all reasons, to "get involved," to "give," to abdicate his judgment and surrender to the call of duty.

Way back in his mind he understands that a measure of domination is inescapable. He also recognizes a deeply imbedded fear of manipulation, a fear intertwined with his instinct for survival, his need for identity and understanding of self, and his concept of reality. He realizes that his "free will" and "humanity" are far from inviolable techniques and yet resists the ethical implications. He suffers. He seeks.

Everyone has to face this in their own way. They must make at least a minimal number of decisions. They can choose among the available selection (as established by society, and sundry other monsters-at-large), choose. In our case, the students

"In a position of constant betrayal (or threat of betrayal) there can only be a belligerent questioning of the validity of society and self."

seem to have for the most part chosen against making a choice.

While administration and student activists yell, "Apathy!" the fact of the matter is that "apathy" means "a lack of emotion, or indifference," and does not apply in this case. This slow, but definite, withdrawal is an inherently emotional response triggered by the control-oriented assaults and vicious acts of aggression against personal initiative. These attacks perpetuate a violence causing injury on the psychological level (which could in the end be more dangerous than force used on a physical plane...We can, and have, dealt with physical cause and effect for thousands of years, but such relations cannot be defined nearly as well on the psychic level. In our ignorance lies our danger. You cannot defend against that which you cannot define, or something to that effect.) Although in the majority of cases the recognition of these attacks tends to remain on a non-verbal level, the damage sustained is just as great and the pain as sharp.

"You cannot defend against that which you cannot define . . ."

Movements in general, be they reactionary or revolutionary, revolve around one basic principle. They are oriented to a clearly defined goal and focused through an individual or (s). In effect they embalm the wills of each of the supporting elements to the advantage of the manipulating leadership. Even though the end result may be for the good of all, the rewards are far out of proportion...inevitably in favor of the leading rather than the lead.

When students refuse to support a leadership, the power they possess as thinking, breathing people resides in them as individuals. As in the American revolution, they are fighting for freedom, not so much to gain it as to keep that measure with which they were born. This is fortunate for them, for just as in the case of the American revolution, the battle is not against a well established existing order so much as a commitment against allowing the establishment of a limiting autocracy. (This type of conflict, to date, has been far cheaper and easier to win than other possible types).

"Obviously withdrawal . . . is only a temporary solution. . ."

Withdrawal of support is a uniquely fascinating solution to the problem of mass manipulation. It allows the individual to maintain personal control without forcing dominion over others. It is also interesting to note that not only may it be the only stratagem open to the student (limited in access to the resources necessary to support other approaches), but it may also be the only one which could possibly work. A parallel might be made with Napoleon's conquest of Russia. The Russians could not possibly amass or maintain a military force capable of meeting Napoleon face to face on the battlefield. They really had no choice but to retreat progressively deeper and deeper into the heart of the motherland, destroying what they could against the possibility of Napoleon's using it in turn to support his effort. Napoleon needed a stunning victory to again seal his claim to power, he had to follow the Russian retreat (unless he could instigate a battle, he could not triumph). The rest is history.

Obviously withdrawal (or apathy, as it has been called lately) is only a temporary solution to the problem. It cannot hold indefinitely against the growing strength and sophistication of the opposition's temptation. It is, however, serving well as a delaying action. We can only hope that it will hold long enough for us to get our heads together, and develop out of the quiet desperation of our lives a sanctuary against coming tribulations.

- Dianna Powell

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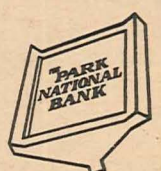
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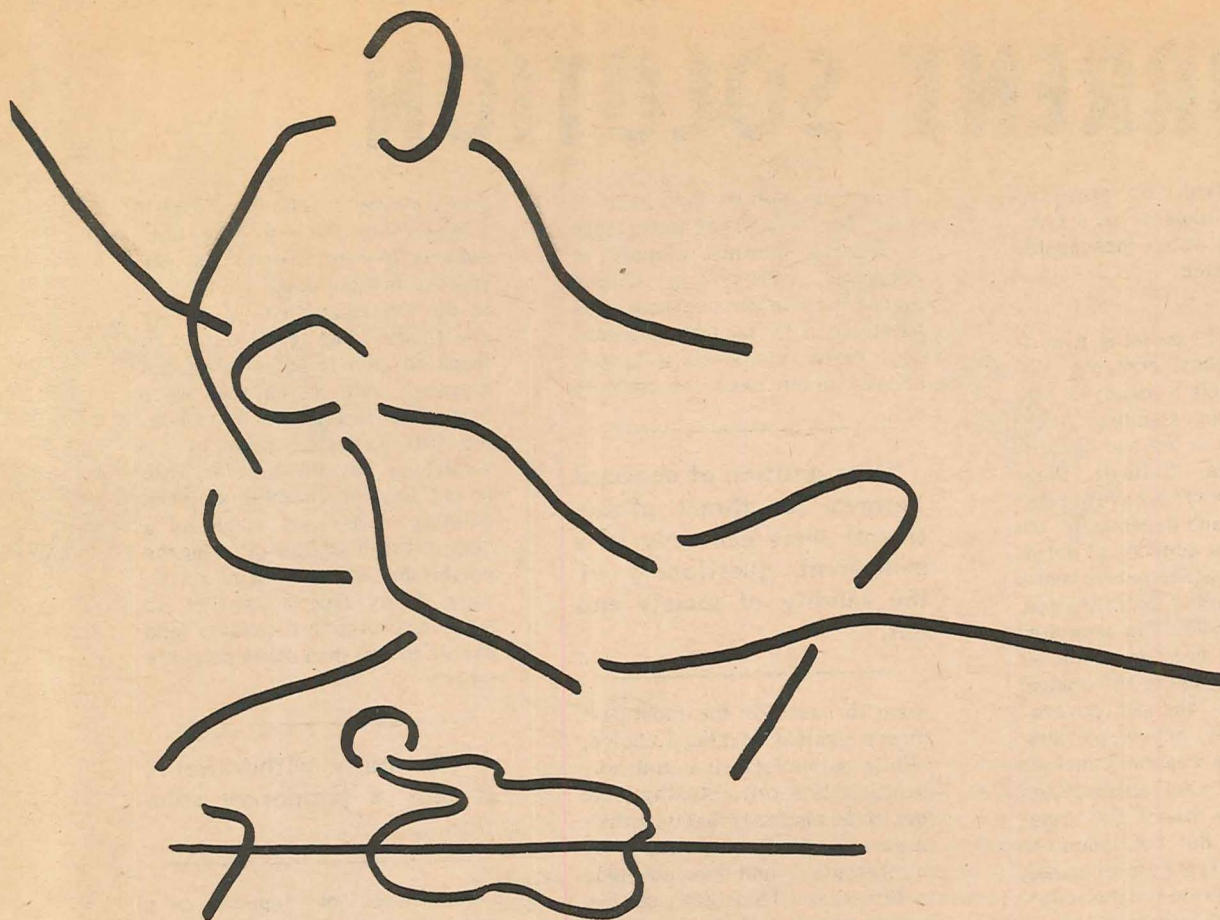
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COMING EVENTS WGSF

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Garrick Ohlsson, already recognized as one of the truly great young pianists, will appear in recital Tuesday, February 29 at 8:00 p.m. His rise to international fame dates from his winning the Warsaw Chopin Competition in 1970. The Chopin award was the third major competition he won in four years: the other two were Italy's Busoni Prize and Montreal's International Piano Competition.

The National Ballet of Washington D.C. was founded in 1962 as the resident company of the nation's capital. The Company will be seen at Mershon Auditorium in Columbus on Tuesday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m.

William Shakespeare's great comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew" will be presented by the NATIONAL PLAYERS OF WASHINGTON on Wednesday, February 16 at 8 p.m. In continuous operation since 1949, PLAYERS is the longest running national classical repertory company in America today. Margaret Webster, a well-known Shakespearean director, said: "Who cares at what period of history a Shrew is Tamed, provided she lives happily ever after?" So it is not by mere whim or caprice that the present NATIONAL PLAYERS production is set in the Italy of today. As a matter of fact, when Shakespeare based his Shrew in the England and Italy of his day, he was updating versions of the story that scholars maintain went back to Noah and a flood of other things. Though production dispenses with the "ruffs and cuffs and farthingales" which Petruchio mentions, it does take its cue most emphatically from him when he says, "To me she's married, not unto my clothes."

The University Dance Company will be seen in concert at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 23-26, in the four untitled new works by Vera Blaine, company director, and Peter Saul. Also to be performed are "Variations From Day to Day" choreographed by Norman Walker to Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn", and "Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor" choreographed by Doris Humphrey to J.S. Bach's music of the same title, which will be played by the OSU Concert Band, Donald McGinnis, conductor. Also to be seen is "Post Meridian" by Paul Taylor to a commissioned score by Evelyn Lohoefer DeBoeck.

The University Chorale, Choir and University Symphony will perform the Arthur Honegger "Joan of Arc at the Stake" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 12. This is a work encompassing a fusion of musical, operatic, balletic and dramatic elements.

Sunday, Feb. 6, 3 p.m.	College of the Arts OSU CONCERT BAND
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 and 12 8 p.m.	"Far Horizons" Color Travel Film Series RUSS POTTER-- "HIGH HIMALAYA"
Tuesday, Feb. 15, 9:45 a.m. and 8 p.m.	Mershon Auditorium Presents MURRAY LOUIS DANCE COMPANY
Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.	National Players "TAMING OF THE SHREW"
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Feb. 23, 24, 25, 26, 8 p.m.	College of The Arts UNIVERSITY DANCE COMPANY In Concert
Tuesday, Feb. 29, 8 p.m.	Great Artist Series GARRICK OHLSSON, Pianist

January 17. Newark, Ohio... WGSF. Newark's Public Television Station, will soon be equipped to broadcast some programs in color. As a part of an Ohio ETV Network improvement project, the local Channel 31 facility will receive equipment to permit the transmitter to broadcast color programs. Federal

Communications Commission rules specify more stringent technical standards for color, and additional equipment, not required for black and white telecasting. The improvement project will supply the picture processing equipment needed at WGSF and test equipment to adjust it for proper operation. Part of the cost will include installation and "proof of performance" measurements by the General Electrical Company, manufacturer of the transmitter.

When completed, Channel 31 will be able to transmit network color programs, only. No color origination equipment is included. All local programs, tapes and films will still be black and white. Funds are not presently available to purchase color cameras, or video tape recorders.

The improvements are part of a state project to upgrade educational stations, in Ohio. WMUB-TV, Miami University, and WOUB-TV, Ohio University, were also recipients of the \$25,000 colorization, making all eight ETV transmitters in the state color capable. (Only two currently originate color programs).

Although the equipment has started to arrive at Channel 31, no date has been set for completion of the colorization.

WGSF is also scheduled for direct interconnection to the PBS Network, sometime this year. Telephone company representatives have indicated this may be as soon as March. This would provide area viewers with much improved service, and better quality color programs. Network programs are presently picked up off-air from Athens or Columbus and rebroadcast on Channel 31.

One Silver thread, three drops of wine
I ask for nothing more;
Or Catch the falling goblet ere
It shatters on the floor.
But now the thread is dark with blood,
And I kneel here bereft.
Unwilling hands have dropt the cup;
There is no liquor left.

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